

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant submits herewith an Information Disclosure Statement and PTO SB/8A form listing references that may be relevant to the present application. The first U.S. patent was cited in a foreign counterpart application, while the other references are expressly discussed in the specification of the present application, and are here supplied to ensure that there is no question that applicant has complied with its duty of disclosure. Entry of these references on the record of this application is respectfully requested. It is not believed that any of these references impacts on the allowability of the claims as here presented.

Objection to Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification as lacking headings of different sections. The present amendment has inserted appropriate headings, and the specification is now believed to be in acceptable format.

Objection to Abstract

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the translation as being in two paragraphs. The present amendment cancels the earlier Abstract and inserts the English-language Abstract of the published PCT application. The Abstract is believed to now be in acceptable form.

Allowable claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 20 to 34, 37 and 39 would be allowable if drafted in independent form and rewritten to overcome the expressed rejections under 35 USC § 112.

Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the language of claim 19, and is therefore believed allowable, with its depending claims 21 to 34 , 37 and 39.

Dependent claims 35 and 36 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 20, and are therefore believed allowable therewith.

All other claims (claims 1 to 19 and 38) have been canceled without prejudice.

Rejections under § 112

The Examiner has expressed a number of rejections under § 112 that have been addressed by the present amendment.

The term “mold body” objected to by the Examiner in claim 19 (which is now inserted language in claim 20) has been changed to “silicon dioxide soot body”, a term found in the specification at, e.g., page 1, lines 9 to 11.

The term “the hoisting apparatus adjacent the heating zone” in claim 20 was objected to for as lack of antecedent basis, and this has been corrected by deleting the language “adjacent to the heating zone”.

The term “the deviation structure” in claims 26 and 36 was objected to as lacking antecedent basis. Reconsideration of this rejection of claim 26 is requested, because claim 26 depends from claim 25, which in turn depends from claim 21, which recites a deviation structure.

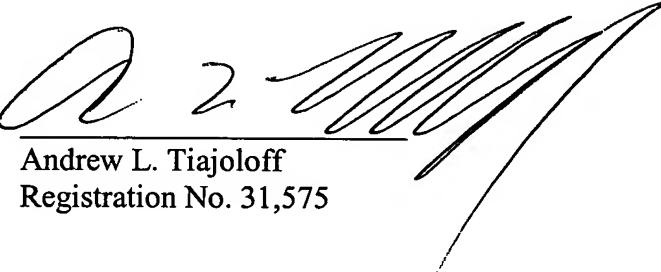
Claim 36 has been amended to include the language of claim 21 therein, and is believed to now also satisfy § 112.

The term “the traction direction” in claim 37 was objected to as lacking antecedent basis. This term is now recited as “a traction direction”, and claim 37 is believed to satisfy § 112 as well.

All claims are now believed to be in allowable form, and all objections of the Examiner as to form have been addressed. Formal allowance is therefore respectfully solicited.

Should any questions arise, the Patent Office is invited to telephone attorney for applicants at 212-490-3285.

Respectfully submitted,



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